

Purpose

 Evaluate the effectiveness of design for internal controls over financial reporting related to departmental financial statements.

Key Activities

- Perform Risk Assessment
- Assess Process and Sub-Process Control Design Effectiveness
- Assess Entity Control Design Effectiveness

Required Templates

AART Toolkit





PROCEDURES



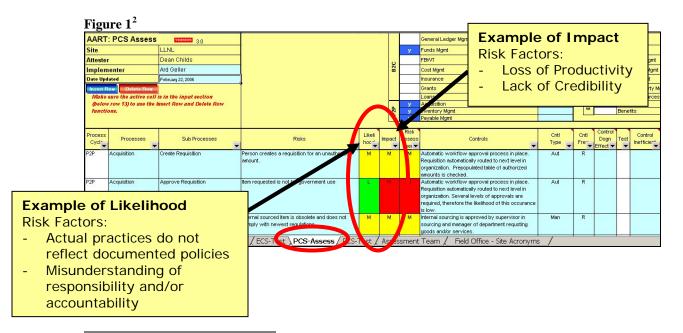
The Documenting phase has been completed to document Entity Control Areas, Processes/Sub-Processes, and associated Risks and Controls.

The Evaluating phase will now be completed by the Site Assessment Team or its designated representative(s).

* A. Risk Assessment of Processes and Entity Controls

 Refer to the AART Toolkit – PCS-Assess and ECS-Assess worksheets and rate and record the Likelihood and Impact for each documented risk at the sub-process level as H (High), M (Moderate) or L (Low).





 $^{^{1}}$ Likelihood and Impact as adapted from the COSO Framework.

² Most screen shots reference the PCS-Assess Worksheet, though the columns are the same for both PCS and ECS-Assess Worksheets



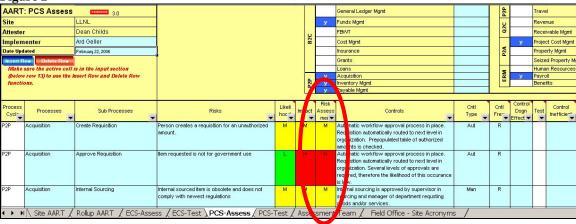


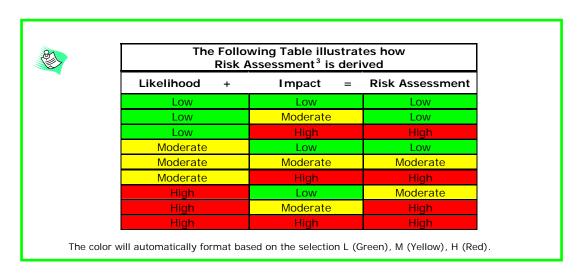
2. Based on the input of Likelihood and Impact, an overall risk assessment will automatically be populated in the Risk Assessment column:



The overall risk assessment can be used as guidance in the testing and remediation phases to prioritize follow on activities. Ratings are suggested, not final.

Figure 2





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³ Risk assessment as adapted from the COSO Framework.







B. Evaluating and Rating Process and Entity Control Design Effectiveness

1. Review the Risk Assessment Column and supporting documentation associated with each control and rate and record the effectiveness of the control design. A drop down box is provided for selecting the ratings.



The following rating scale is used to assess effectiveness of controls. Throughout the phases these ratings will be applied to sub-processes, processes, and entity control areas.

The attester will review these ratings and supporting information in order to formulate the appropriate Field Office Assurance.

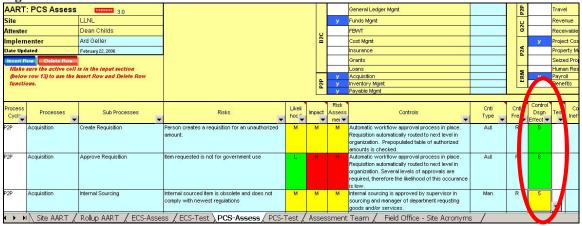
You may see some Processes and/or sub-processes with a status of "2-Initial Remediation" in the Control Design Effectiveness column. These do not require an evaluation at this time

	Control Design and Assessment Ratings		
	2	Initial Remediation	Controls ineffective and in remediation.
NOT EFFECTIVE	3	Material Weakness	Reportable condition, or combination of reportable conditions, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements, or other significant financial reports, will not be prevented or detected.
	4	Reportable Condition	A control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report external financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements, or other significant financial reports, that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected
	5	Control Deficiency	Control deficiencies exist when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A design deficiency exists when a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or an existing control is not properly designed, so that even if the control operates as designed the control objective is not always met. An operation deficiency exists when a properly designed control does not operate as designed or when the person performing the control is not qualified or properly skilled to perform the control effectively.
	6	Controls Designed Effective	Control will prevent and/or detect misstatements as designed
	7	Controls Test Effective	Control will prevent and/or detect misstatements as implemented





Figure 3

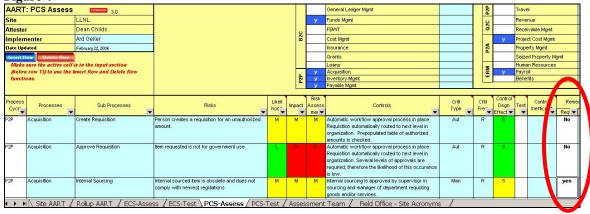


2. Once the control effectiveness has been rated, the AART Toolkit will automatically identify those controls requiring remediation.



In some cases, you may be able to immediately identify a mitigating control to offset controls you have just rated as not effective. In this case, refer to the remediation guide for instructions on how to handle this in an expedited manner.

Figure 4

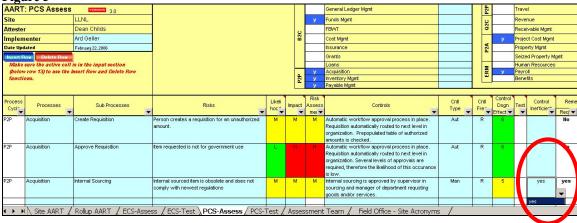






3. (Optional) Determine and record if a control is inefficient using the drop down box provided.

Figure 5

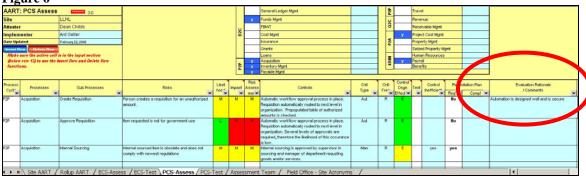




A control may be effective, but may be inefficient. For example, a control may require a lot of manual intervention which could be automated in the future. This field can be used to identify process improvements for the future.

4. Summarize the rationale used to determine the Control Design Effectiveness rating in the Evaluation Rationale/Comments column.

Figure 6

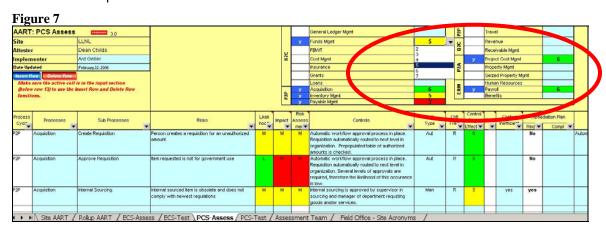






5. Summarize the overall Control Design Effectiveness for each Process or Area Assessment field based on professional judgment weighing the Control Design Effectiveness results for the associated sub-processes / sub-categories and controls (refer to section B.1 for explanation of ratings).

Assign the appropriate number (rating) in the Assessment fields using the drop down box.



6. Enter the location of the document explaining the rationale used to determine the rating.

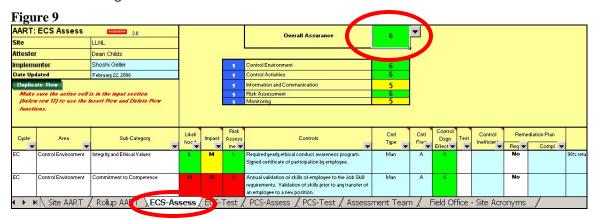






7. For the Entity Control Evaluation, an Overall Control Assessment must be determined.

Rate and record the Overall EC Control Assessment based on professional judgment weighing the Control Design Effectiveness results for the area ratings.

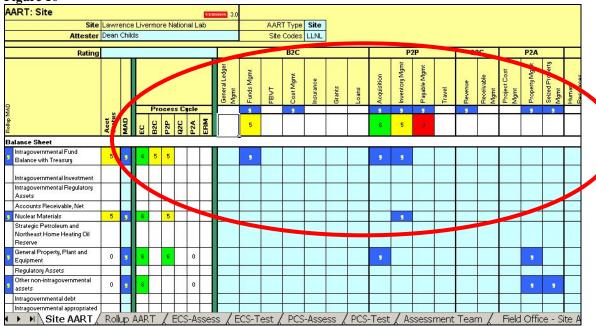




Surveys can be used to determine the Entity Control Effectiveness ratings.

8. The Site AART tab in the AART Toolkit is automatically populated with the process and overall entity control assessment ratings. In doing so, it distributes the ratings to the affected accounts.

Figure 10



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9. Once all affected accounts have been rated, assign an overall Rating for the Site / Field Office/ LPSO using professional judgment.

Figure 11 AART: Site Site Lawrence Livermore National Lab AART Type Site Attester Deer Site Codes LLNL 5-Control Deficiency Rating B2C 2-Initial Remediation 3-Material Weakness 6-Control Design Eff
7-Control Tested Eff
Process Cycle Acet Statu MAD EC P2P Q2C P2A ERM 5 Balance Sheet Intragovernmental Fund Balance with Treasury Intragovernmental Investment Intragovernmental Regulatory Assets Accounts Receivable, Net Nuclear Materials Strategic Petroleum and Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve General Property, Plant and Equipment 0 Regulatory Assets Other non-intragover assets Intragovernmental debt ▶ ► Site AART





C. Update the Rollup AART



REQUIREMENTS

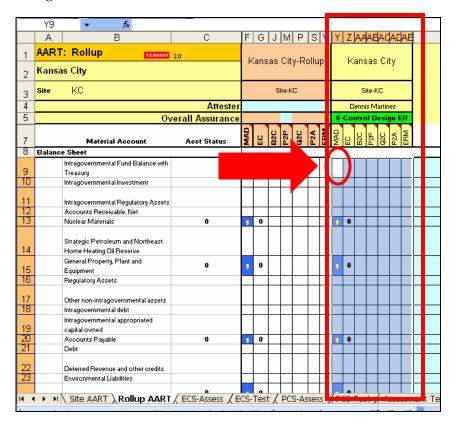
This step must be performed by the Field Office or LPSO Assessment Team lead.

Field Offices and LPSOs have different processes for FY 2006. Starting in FY2007 the rollup process will be the same

FIELD OFFICE ONLY

1. Starting in cell Y9 of the Site AART, copy all of the automatically populated ratings for the accounts and process cycles. (Cells Y9 through AE51)

Figure 12

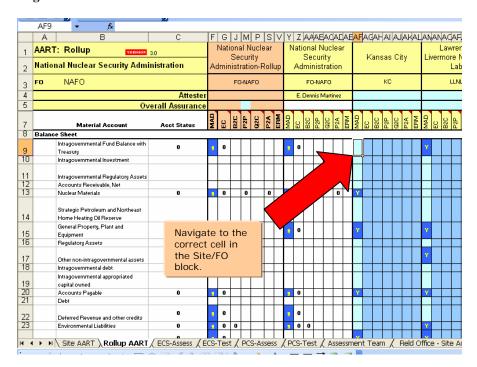






 Navigate to the Rollup tab of the workbook that will consolidate the data for oversight purposes (i.e., the Field Office AART), find the correct predefined Site or Field Office section and select the first cell of the Material Accounts listing (for example, cell AF9 for KC).

Figure 13





SPECIAL ATTENTION REQUIRED

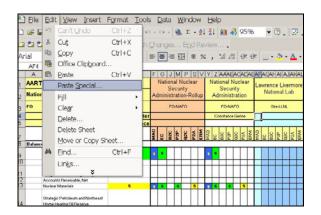
It is critical that the "Paste Special" functionality is used and that just values are pasted into the Rollup AART (see below for details).





3. Paste Special the results as follows: Go to Edit -> Paste Special and select the values radio button. Click OK.

Figure 14





- 4. Repeat steps 1-3 for the Rollup Overall rating
 - a. Copy cells Y5 through AE 5 from the Site AART Rollup.
 - b. Navigate to the appropriate cell block for that Site in row 5.
 - c. Go to Edit -> Paste Special and select the values radio button.
 - d. Click OK.

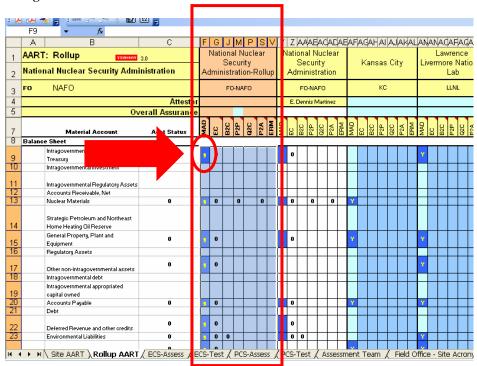




LPSO ONLY

5. Starting in cell F9 of the Field Office AART, copy all the automatically populated ratings for the accounts and process cycles. (Cells F9 through V51)

Figure 15

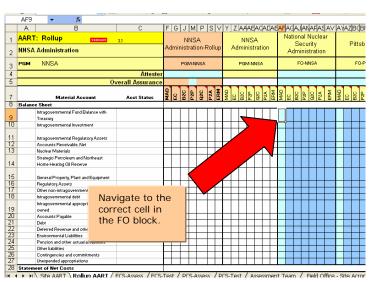






 Navigate to the Rollup tab of the workbook that will consolidate the data for oversight purposes (i.e., the LPSO AART), find the correct predefined Field Office section and select the first cell of the Material Accounts listing (for example, cell AF9 for NNSA).

Figure 16



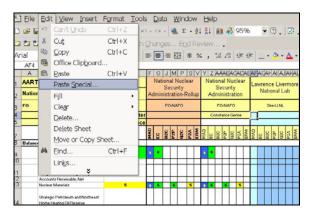


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It is critical that the "Paste Special" functionality is used and that just values are pasted into the Rollup AART (see below for details).

7. Paste Special the results as follows: Go to Edit -> Paste Special and select the values radio button. Click OK.

Figure 17









- 8. Repeat steps 1-3 for the Rollup Overall rating
 - a. Copy cells F5 through V5 from the Site AART Rollup.
 - b. Navigate to the appropriate cell block for that Site in row 5.
 - c. Go to Edit -> Paste Special and select the values radio button.
 - d. Click OK.

D. Update the Implementation Plan

- 1. Document the results of the evaluation activities performed
- 2. Review Implementation Plan for accuracy
- 3. Make and track necessary changes



Major changes to the Implementation Plan will need to be reported in the Quarterly Report.





REFERENCES

See CFO A-123 Website for suggested reading material:

OMB A-123 Appendix A CFO Council Implementation Guide for OMB Circular A-123 Financial Audit Manual (GAO-01-765G) DOE OMB Circular A-123, Appendix A, Implementation Plan DOE Interim Guidance for OMB Circular A-123 FY 2005 Audit Report FY 2005 Management Letter

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the CFO A-123 website which will be updated with latest materials including tools, FAQs and additional reading material. (http://www.cfo.doe.gov/progliaison/doeA123/index.htm)

DEFINITIONS

Word	Definition
Attester	The person who will be required to affirm the
	authenticity of information for the LPSO.
Cognizant Secretarial	Headquarters Elements that provide significant funding
Office (CSO)	to Field Offices overseen by the LPSOs.
Field Office (FO)	Location where the Site Assessment Team manages the
	A-123 Implementation for its Sites. Only the Field Office
	provides assurance to the LPSO.
Headquarters	Lead Program Secretarial Office or Headquarters
Element	Business Program that is affected by the financial
	reporting requirements of OMB A-123, Appendix A.
Implementer	The person responsible for executing the activities to
	support the Attester's affirmation.
Lead Program	Headquarters Element whose cognizance includes those
Secretarial Office	Field Offices that are affected by the financial reporting
(LPSO)	requirements of OMB A-123, Appendix A. These LPSOs
	provide oversight activities to Field Offices that directly
	impact the accounts determined to be material to the
	Department's financial statements.
Process	The highest level of sub-processes within a process
	cycle.
Process Cycle	An end-to-end sequence of events consisting of the
	methods and records used to establish, identify,
CI	assemble, analyze, classify, and record transactions. ⁴
Site	Unit of a Field Office including the Field Office federal
	activities and its contractors (both integrated and non-
	integrated). Predefined by Headquarters.

⁴ Adapted from the CFO Council Implementation Guide

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NEXT PHASE

